



**United States Attorney's Office  
District of Columbia**

**Jeffrey A. Taylor  
United States Attorney**

---

## **NEWS RELEASE**

---

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
Tuesday, March 31, 2009

USAO Public Affairs  
(202) 514-6933  
[www.usdoj.gov/usao/dc](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/dc)

### **NE District man found guilty of 2005 fatal shooting**

WASHINGTON - A 24-year-old Northeast District of Columbia man, Delonte C. Fortune, has been found guilty of charges related to the August 7, 2005 shooting death of Lamont Watkins, U.S. Attorney Jeffrey A. Taylor announced.

On March 3, 2009, a jury returned guilty verdicts against Delonte Fortune for second degree murder, possession of a firearm during a crime of violence and carrying a pistol without a license, which were charges related to the fatal shooting of Mr. Watkins in an alley in the 3900 block of 7<sup>th</sup> Street, NE, Washington, D.C. The Honorable Michael Rankin subsequently declared a mistrial due to certain procedural issues that arose after the verdict was issued. On March 30, 2009, after considering further arguments by the parties, Judge Rankin reinstated the jury's verdicts. Sentencing is set for June 24, 2009.

The government's evidence at trial showed that the murder stemmed from a dispute over money. Two hours before the murder, Watkins and Fortune engaged in a fist fight approximately two blocks from where the murder took place. Despite the dramatic size difference, Fortune was unable to beat Watkins, who was approximately one hundred pounds lighter and seven inches smaller than Fortune. At the conclusion of the fight, several people from the neighborhood made fun of Fortune for failing to beat the much smaller Watkins. Fortune walked away from the fight angry.

Approximately two hours later, Fortune lured Watkins into an alley in the 3900 block of 7<sup>th</sup> Street, NE, Washington, D.C. (PSA 502), and shot him at point blank range five times, striking him in the neck, chest, stomach, thigh and hand. Watkins was pronounced dead on the scene.

In securing the conviction, U.S. Attorney Jeffrey Taylor commended the following Metropolitan Police Department officers for their work on the case: lead Detective Michael Fulton, Detective Brett Smith, Detective Josh Branson, Officer Gary Walker and Mobile Crime Officer Curtis Lancaster. Mr. Taylor also commended Assistant U.S. Attorneys Seth Waxman and Kevin Flynn, who tried the case, and former Assistant U.S. Attorney Alexandra Foster, who indicted the case.

###